

dedication to our country and our State during the many years he has served. I have enjoyed working with him on a variety of issues and appreciate the compassion and understanding he has shown to the men and women under his command, especially during these very challenging times for our Nation and our military.

His efforts to recruit, train, equip, and mobilize South Dakotans for service have been critical to the Guard's mission accomplishment, as has his commitment to care for our State's veterans. His outstanding service on behalf of our State's service men and women is appreciated; he has set an exceptional example for military personnel to follow.

I commend him for all he has done for the people of South Dakota. His dedicated service to our grateful Nation will not be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO WGNO-TV, NEW ORLEANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, today I wish to speak about a television station in my hometown of New Orleans. As all our local news media have, WGNO-TV/ABC 26 has been there through thick and through thin, telling Louisiana's story of recovery following Hurricane Katrina. But often missed as you watch the local news broadcasts and read the local papers is that the story of rebuilding and recovery these journalists are telling is as much their own story as it is the community's.

After many years broadcasting from New Orleans' World Trade Center, WGNO moved into a new studio facility at the New Orleans Centre, near the Louisiana Superdome, just a few weeks before Katrina hit. Forced out of the space by the approaching storm, they broadcast their coverage from ABC station WBRZ-TV in Baton Rouge, as well as various locations on the road, reporting from the heart of the devastation.

When they moved back to New Orleans to begin telling the story of rebuilding, they told it from a facility all too familiar to their viewers—a set of trailers parked behind the Superdome. A makeshift studio and control room were assembled in part with equipment procured on the Internet. Months later, after a decision was made to not reopen the New Orleans Centre, effectively evicting the station, WGNO moved back into the World Trade Center facility they had vacated in July 2005.

Tonight, WGNO formally celebrates the opening of a brand-new broadcast center in Metairie, Louisiana. Their first broadcast from their new home was on August 29—the 2-year anniversary of Katrina—and I was proud to be their first in-studio guest.

It took 2 years for the hard-working staff of WGNO to move into a permanent new home. For many of my constituents, it will be much longer. But one guiding light will be, as it has been since the storm first struck, the dedi-

cated reporting of our local news organizations—not just WGNO, but also their colleagues at WWL-TV, WVUE-TV and WDSU-TV, our local radio stations, the Times Picayune and our vibrant weekly community papers, and all the others who have stayed with us every minute of these difficult 2 years. Even as many of their own reporters, engineers and other personnel have faced their own tremendous challenges, having in many cases lost homes and loved ones, they have continued to be a voice for our great city and State.

I congratulate WGNO as they celebrate their new home, and thank them and all of our local news media for their continued service.●

HONORING LOOK'S GOURMET FOOD COMPANY, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, today I celebrate the recent inclusion of a small business from my home State of Maine on the Inc. 5,000 list of this Nation's fastest-growing private companies. Look's Gourmet Food Company, Inc., of Whiting has been a dominant player in the canned food industry since its inception in 1917. Notably, during the past 3 years, the company has grown over 200 percent, garnering the attention of Inc., a magazine that reports on small business and entrepreneurship issues. Companies on the list were ranked based on their percentage of revenue growth between 2003 and 2006. Moreover, all the firms had to be based in the United States, independent, and privately held. Of particular distinction is that Look's Gourmet Food Company placed 41st among 160 food and beverage companies subcategory. This is truly an honor for the State of Maine—especially for downeast Maine.

When Mike Cote became the owner of the former A.M. Look Canning Company in April 2003, he set out to increase sales and promote a positive view of canned seafood. He began by changing the seafood processor's name to Look's Gourmet Food Company and redesigning the labels on the cans. Since that time, sales have tripled, and the company has acquired new equipment to keep up with growing demand. In addition, through the community development block grant program, Look's has purchased a warehouse in the nearby former Cutler Navy base dedicated to packing and shipping. A business that continues to grow, Look's currently employs 21 full-time workers.

Look's Gourmet Food Company boasts a line of over 30 products including: whole Maine lobster meat, Maine cherrystone clams, clam chowder, lobster bisque, and clam juice. Look's also cans four varieties of beans, a traditional downeast Maine dessert known as Indian pudding, and more recently, has added kippers, herring, and mackerel to its seafood repertoire. The company produces small, 60-gallon batches of its chowders and bisques, while re-

fusing to use additives or preservatives, rendering an unrivaled product. What makes Look's so unique is that it is the last remaining multiproduct food cannery in Maine, and one of just three food canneries in the State.

Forming unique partnerships, Look's teams up with other local companies to produce high-quality foods. For instance, Look's has five different sauces that it uses when packing its herring fillets, including one made using products from Raye's Mustard which is made locally in Eastport. Additionally, to bolster another small business, Look's gives discarded mussel shells to Artful Wares, a Maine enterprise that makes silverware handles from crushed shells, thereby reducing waste and ensuring Artful Wares a supply of shells.

In listing Look's Gourmet Food on its 5,000 list, Inc. noted that Look's is growing due to its use of all-natural ingredients, as well as the sale of products in both specialty and mainstream grocery stores. Inc. also points to Look's export business to Japan and its desire to sell in Europe. This proactive business model has benefitted Look's as well, and the company has certainly earned the recognition it has received. I congratulate Mike Cote and everyone at Look's Gourmet Food for their exceptional achievement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AS RECEIVED DURING RECESS OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2007—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a

notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2007, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2007.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3259. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, five quarterly Selected Acquisition Reports for the quarter ended June 30, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3260. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's decision to conduct a public-private competition for the multi-functional Base Operating Support mission at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3261. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reports of Government Property" (DFARS Case 2005-D015) received on September 11, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3262. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Captan, 2,4-D, Dodine, DCPA, Endothall, Fomesafen, Propyzamide, Ethofumesate, Permethrin, Dimethipin, and Fenarimol; Tolerance Actions" (FRL No. 8142-2) received on September 11, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3263. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Comprehensive Procurement Guideline V for Procurement of Products Containing Recovered Materials" ((RIN2050-AE23) (FRL No. 8468-3)) received on September 11, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3264. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nonroad Diesel Technical Amendments and Tier 3 Technical Relief Provision" ((RIN2060-AO37) (FRL No. 8467-2)) received on September 11, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3265. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office

of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Assessing the Environmental Effects Abroad of EPA Actions" ((RIN2020-AA42) (FRL No. 8467-5)) received on September 11, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3266. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 8456-4) received on September 11, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3267. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disaster/Combat Zone Relief and Dischargeability" (Rev. Rul. 2007-59) received on September 10, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3268. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2007" (Notice 2007-77) received on September 10, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3269. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Certain Nuclear Decommissioning Funds for Purposes of Allocating Purchase Price in Certain Deemed and Actual Asset Acquisitions" ((RIN1545-BC99) (TD 9358)) received on September 10, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3270. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba relative to its telecommunications services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3271. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. military personnel and civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3272. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Director, received on September 10, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3273. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Office of the General Counsel, Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "April 2007 Revision of Patent Cooperation Treaty Procedures" (RIN0651-AC09) received on September 10, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3274. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the activities and operations of the Criminal Division of the Public Integrity Section during calendar year 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1256. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-154).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2040. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative tax liability limitation for small property and casualty insurance companies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2041. A bill to amend the False Claims Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2042. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct activities to rapidly advance treatments for spinal muscular atrophy, neuromuscular disease, and other pediatric diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 2043. A bill to prohibit the closure or relocation of any county office of the Farm Service Agency until at least 1 year after the enactment of an omnibus law to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs for fiscal years after fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2044. A bill to provide procedures for the proper classification of employees and independent contractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2045. A bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2046. A bill to establish a pilot program for police departments to use anonymous texts from citizens to augment their anonymous tip hotlines; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2047. A bill to require enhanced disclosures to consumers purchasing flood insurance and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2048. A bill for the relief of Jose Buendia Balderas, Alicia Aranda De Buendia, and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. KERRY):